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TAEWELL REPUBLICAN.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1912.

## A BAD RECORD.

The record of General Ayers, democratic candidate for Congress from this district, made as a member of the late constitutional convention, is frightfully bad. Possibly it is worse than that of Henry C. Stuart, the democratic candidate of two years ago.

In his speech at Marion, Va., on the 2nd of September, 1912, General Ayers said that the democratic party "throughout all its history has steadfastly resisted all encroachment upon the rights of the people." He further declared that: "True to its history and traditions, the democratic party has been first to respond to the voice of the people and heed their demands for greater participation in their government."

Surely, he was not thinking of referring to his past record as a democrat, or that of his party in Virginia, when he made these fabulous assertions. The record of the Virginia democracy, and of General Ayers as one of its leaders, very plainly refutes his claims. The record he and his party made in the making of the new constitution stamps his assertions as baldly untrue. The first vote cast by General Ayers in the constitutional convention was a denial of the truth "that all power is vested in, and consequently derived from the people, that magistrates are their trustees and servants, and at all times amenable to them." This is what the Bill of Rights says, yet General Ayers and his democratic associates in the convention—with a few honorable exceptions—voted against taking an oath, and refused to do so before they proceeded to make a constitution for the people of Virginia, whose servants they were. The oath General Ayers and every member of the convention should have taken is as follows:

"I, Rufus A. Ayers, do solemnly swear that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the Constitution and laws of the State of Virginia; that I recognize and accept the civil and political equality of all men before the law, and that I will faithfully perform the duty of a delegate in this convention to the best of my ability."

The Constitution of Virginia provided that: "All persons, before entering upon the discharge of any function as officers of this State, must take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation." That is, the oath above quoted.

The refusal of General Ayers and the democratic members of the convention to take an oath to do their work as the servants of the people, in conformity with existing constitutional and statute law, was based upon the unwarrantable assumption that the people of Virginia had voluntarily divested themselves of all sovereign power; and had invested the one hundred members of the convention with the sovereignty that had passed from the people. Ex-Governor Wm. E. Cameron, the most fanciful, and, therefore, the most popular speaker in favor of the violation of law and precedent, said:

"Having asserted that we are sovereign, sovereign in the sense that the people have passed to us all sovereignty, . . . I desire to read four apothemes. . . No oath is required of any sovereign on earth. There is no one to whom a sovereign is responsible or can take an oath. The idea of an oath implies the existence of a superior. We are the people, for the purposes set forth, of framing the Constitution. To whom, then, shall we swear fidelity except to ourselves?"

Upon such specious, fanciful reasoning as this, General Ayers and his democratic associates, who desired to violate the supreme law of the land—the Constitution of the United States—and to infract the constitutional and statute law of Virginia without subjecting themselves to a charge of perjury, voted themselves sovereigns, kings, masters,

superiors, rather than the servants of the people. And then and there General Ayers and his democratic associates determined that they would usurp sovereignty and proclaim it to be the organic law of Virginia. They stood boldly to another assertion made by Colonel Cameron in his speech, to-wit:

"Has any power on earth, precedent or present, the power to declare how we shall use that portion of sovereignty of Virginia which has passed to us?"

Was not this a violent encroachment upon the rights of the people? Yes, was it not a criminal usurpation of the rights of sovereign people of Virginia? There is another question or attribute of American citizenship, upon which General Ayers and his party in Virginia have a record that is not in accord with his present claim that the democratic party, "throughout all its history has steadfastly resisted all encroachment upon the rights of the people. We refer to the suffrage question.

At an early period of the first session of the constitutional convention, General Ayers made a lengthy speech upon the report of the Committee on Preamble and Bill of Rights, and an amendment offered by Mr. Wyser, of Pulaski, to the concluding paragraph of the preamble. That amendment as offered by Mr. Wyser was as follows:

"We, therefore, their delegates so elected and in convention assembled, do propose to the good people of Virginia the following revised and amended constitution as the form of government for this Commonwealth."

The chief aim of General Ayers in his very lengthy remarks, apparently, was to defeat the amendment offered by Mr. Wyser. This amendment was directed to submitting the new constitution to the people. General Ayers having already voted himself and his democratic associates members as superiors and masters; and having usurped the sovereignty which rests ever and always with the people, they being the source of all power, indicated his purpose to vote for the proclamation of the constitution. He afterwards so voted, and defiantly violated his pledge as a candidate, the pledge made by his party for submission, and the mandate of the Act of the General Assembly which authorized his election as a member of the convention. Was this not a violent encroachment upon the rights of the people; and a violation of the fundamental principles underlying the making of all constitutions?

In this same speech General Ayers gave expression to very conservative views on the suffrage and registration questions. We quote from that speech the following:

"As it is, Mr. Chairman, in a perfectly constitutional manner, not in violation of the Constitution of the United States, not denying to any man the elective franchise on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude, I am in favor of restricting the negro vote."

"I would, Mr. Chairman, grant to all persons of fair character, who understand the duties and obligations of citizenship under a republican form of government the right to vote. I would not create any requirement in the form of a prepayment of capitation tax, a property qualification, or educational qualification, but I would provide that a council be elected, in the first instance by this convention, to consist of three members from each magisterial district in each county in the State, one of whom at least should

not be of the same political party as the other two, which council should not meet in the district, but meet at the county seat, and all acting together openly should determine upon the applicants for registration who met this provision.

"I think the result of the action of that board would be to enfranchise, to register, practically all the white men in this State. I think the action of that board would be to register a considerable portion, but nothing like a majority, of the colored men entitled to vote in this State."

Clearly it was then the opinion of General Ayers that the declaration in the Bill of Rights, "that all men, having sufficient evidence of permanent common interest with, and attachment to the community, have the right of suffrage," is sound democratic and sound republican doctrine. Though he had but recently, by his vote, declared himself sovereign and the people his servants, he had not yet reached the advanced position of usurpation which he and his associates later attained, when they degraded the right of suffrage into a cheap privilege. General Ayers now speaks of suffrage as a privilege and not as a right.

The views expressed by General Ayers in his speech on the Bill of Rights shows that he had at that time some respect for the rights of the people as to the elective franchise and registration. But later he voted for the iniquitous registration and election laws. He voted for the prepayment of the poll tax as a qualification for voting. He voted for a property and for an educational qualification. He voted for the "understanding clause," which the Hon. Henry C. Stuart declared was to be an administrative act to discriminate in favor of the white man and against the negro. He voted for the appointment of partisan boards of registration in each city and county in the State, and helped to turn them loose without requiring them to take an oath. This was done to enable the registration boards to administer the dishonest law unfairly. He selected and appointed the registration boards for the two counties he represented in the convention—Wise and Dickenson. The boards of Wise and Dickenson were composed solidly of partisan democrats. Not one of them was from a different party, which the General had previously said should be.

General Ayers voted for the provision in the constitution that gives the people one man for registrar at each precinct, and to be the most ultra democrat that can be found at that precinct. These registrars have been invested with such arbitrary power, so destructive to the electorate, that even the Roanoke Times has raised its voice in favor of reforming the registration laws.

The result of these unfair partisan registration and election laws is a great curtailment of the electorate of the State. So many difficulties have to be met and so many obstacles overcome in journeying to the ballot box, that more than half the white men of voting age are now deprived of the right to vote, and more than nine-tenths of the colored men of voting age cannot register and qualify themselves to vote.

Is not this a violent encroachment upon the suffrage rights of the people of Virginia? Have not General Ayers and the democrats deprived a large majority of the people of Virginia of all right or opportunity to participate in their government?

## DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE

In Tazewell County For The Year 1911 (Except Lands and Lots Herebefore Sold to The Commonwealth and Not Redeemed.) See Notice of Sale at End of List.

## JEFFERSONVILLE DISTRICT.

## WHITES.

Name of Person	Quantity Land	Local Description	Taxes
Asberry, Mary	14 acres	head Dryfork	1.34
Brooks, Wm M	25 "	" "	1.67
" Mutilda D est	172 "	north Stony Ridge	66
" Fannie	20 "	" "	1.97
Barrett, J G	212 "	head Horsepen	1.13
Bowling, Mary C	60 acres	E Tazewell	82
Edmond, R. S & L T Church	129 "	Mud Fork	1.97
Joseph	2-2 "	Poor Valley	1.01
Fowler, J R	2-2 "	south Stony Ridge	99
Graham, Julia A	14 "	north	49
Harrison, Geo T, A and L	102 "	Cavatts Creek	82
Work, L and Rebecca	30 "	Dry Fork	3.84
Mitchell, Mollie	16 b 2	left fork Dix creek	1.05
Prout, John est	15 "	E Tazewell	1.66
" Stephen	15 "	Rays Fork	31
Peary, Angeline	624 "	" "	20
Watts E and children	53 "	Clinch river	1.24
Ross, Ed A	30 "	Lincolnshire branch	3.50
Shrader, Geo F	542 "	Stony Ridge	4.10
Spence, Jas N	56 "	south Stony Ridge	1.82
Tazewell E L & P Co mill & 2 6 10 acres	h and lot	Cavatts Creek	1.64
	h and lot	Maxwell	16.64

## MINERAL LANDS.

Beavers, A R est	28 acres surface	Crockett's Cove	1.00
Bolener, Charlotte	50.77 "	Horsepen	1.99
Bowling, Sallie	h and lot	strip	2.53
Cregar, J Lawrence	h and lot	R R ave sec 13	1.87
Edwards, D C	h and lot	R R ave	51
Moore, S Virginia	h and lot	south M at	6.30

## COLORED.

Ferrell, Henry	31 acres	Stony Ridge	18
Smith, Simon est	h and 2 lots	Dry Fork	31
Thompson, Oscar	h and lot	R R ave	2.50
Witten, Albert	h and lot	R R ave	2.51

## TOWN LOTS—TAEWELL.

Holly, J O	h and lot	near CH	3.73
Smith, Rachel	h and lot	Sec 18	1.25
Thompson, G A	h and lot	northwest CH	1.25
" Eveline	h and lot	R R ave, bal	1.72

## CLEAR FORK DISTRICT.

Hane, Charles A	Tract	Bluestone	66
Balcher, I G est	39 acres	Mud Fork	2.06
" Isaac	6 sec 19	" "	84
Brooks, Sallie	12 acres	Clear Fork	15
" Lee	lot	W Graham	50
Bowling, W J	1-10 acres	Boisevain	1.00
Buck, Alice	12.68 "	Falls Mills	32
Bales, Laura	1 acre	W Graham	3.33
Ballard, Bertie	5 sec 14	Curran branch	33
Carter, D B	1 acre	Falls Mills	33
Cox, A G est	80 acres	Mud Fork	3.39
Denton, Fathons	96 "	Stony Ridge	6.94
" M F	5 "	near Pocahtontas	15
Davis, C F	3 lots	Curran branch	1.29
Funny, Emma	24 acres	W Valley	33
Fisher, W P	6 sec 4 & 6 sec 3	W Graham	1.31
Gillespie, W H	30 acres	head Clinch	3.33
Hendricks, L A	h and lot	Bluestone	1.52
Harman, Sallie A	40 acres	Clear Fork	4.33
" J A C	lot	Curran branch	32
Higginbotham, R C	24.24 acres	Mud Fork	33
Hill, J T	22 sec 9	Coal branch	82
" Maggie A	22 sec 1	Boisevain	37
Hoesten, Mariah	160 sec 8	Boisevain	33
Hamlet, Peggy	2 acres	Mud Fork	66
Johnson, Samuel	12 lots	Smithfield	4.18
Jones, Sallie	11 lots	" "	3.33
Jameson, W A	2 lots	" "	83
" "	10 lots	" "	1.67
" "	2 lots	" "	33
" "	2 lots sec 8 and 9	" "	33
Lambert, Henry	7 acres	W Graham	1.31
Litz, M O	46 acres	Laurel creek	7.50
Linkous, B M	lot	Graham	1.67
Mitchell, Laura	lot	Curran branch	1.33
Mathena, K H	28.55 acres	Mud Fork	1.82
Merrill, Wm J	22 "	Bluestone	1.34
McDowell, R T	21 "	Divides	2.02
" James and Henry	117 acres	Bluestone	7.29
Neel, Sallie E	30 acres	Mud Fork	1.99
" L L and T S	33 "	East river mountain	3.84
Nash, G W and J F	60 "	northeast Rich mountain	4.51
Perdue, Wm	1 acre	Laurel creek	86
Shields, Julia E	52 "	Clear Fork	1.66
Slade, W P	1 acre	W Graham	1.33
" G W	int lot 6, 19	Smithfield	33
Suss, F C	1 and 2 sec 12	Coal branch	1.33
Shore, Jacob	14 sec 8 & 143 sec 9	Burkes Garden	4.47
Simpson, W A	lot 1 sec 2	Boisevain	83
Swanson, T G	38.12 acres	Mud Fork	1.33
Tabor, J B	43 "	" "	83
" Elizabeth J	7 sec 7	E Graham	1.83
Thompson, Robert	lot	" "	1.33
Thornon, Wm	18 acres and tract	W Valley	49
Tillman, J S	1 acre	Boisevain	84
Watson, Robert	18 sec 1	Boisevain	1.50
Walker, W H	9 sec 1	" "	53
Woody, C K	18, 19, 20 sec 16	W Graham	6.65
Wall, Ella B	40 acres	Valley ridge	1.34
Wagner, Harvey est	1 of 28 acres	Springville	1.70
Wingo, Margaret	14 "	Coal branch	31
White, G P	9 sec 7	" "	1.39
Withers, J H	14 acres	Bluestone	1.34
Williams, Stella and Bettie	11, 12, 13, 14 sec 12	Boisevain	33
Whitaker, M T	17 acres	Laurel creek	6.90
George, T E est	5 "	" "	33
Bailey, W G	12 "	" "	33
Denton, John	34 "	" "	1.33
Hill, Eliza	21 "	" "	1.82
" W D	32 "	" "	83
Hardy, Mary	25 "	" "	8.32
Hyman, Sol	25 "	" "	2.99
Lambert, Geo W	25 "	" "	1.99
Patrick, Felix	8 acre surface	" "	1.33
" G W	124 acre surface	" "	1.67
Wellington, Mary	104 acre surface	" "	1.00

## TOWN LOTS—POCAHONTAS—WHITES.

Crewley, Alice	h and lot	E Church st	1.26
Kwase, J I, and Harry Gross	h and lot	Center st	26.20
" Bertha	h and lot	near depot	50.40
" "	residence	" "	5.88
" "	h and lot	Church st	12.60
Katzon, W	h and lot	E Church st	1.69
Miller, Joe	18 acres	Center st	1.09
White, W W	h and lot	E Church st	1.69
Waynick, A H	h and lot	" "	2.25
Williams, S W	h and lot	Church at	3.35
			5.05

## TOWN LOTS—GRAHAM—WHITES.

Anderson, G L	1, 2, 3	R L G plat	1.89
Arnett, H G	3, 4 and 1 of 10	" "	7.57
Brown, G W	10 and 11 sec 5	" "	89
Barrett, Charles	2 lots	adjoining E H Harman	1.26
Burress, M J	lot	Beaver Creek	51
Caudill, Bettie	h and 14 sec 14	" "	4.28
Denning, W H	13 sec 3	" "	87
Duypuy, Nannie M	4 and 5 sec 22	" "	3.15
Fulp, E L	3 sec 18	" "	2.03
Farley, D H	lot sec 18	" "	88
Freeman, E W	8 sec 19	" "	1.62
Frye, I F and C C Smith	8 and 9 sec 39	" "	1.26
" of 5, 6, 7, 8,	" "	" "	4.41
Frazier, Wade H	1, 2, 3, 4 sec 4	" "	2.53
" "	6 and 7 block A	" "	1.00
Fidelity B & T Co	14 sec 16	" "	5.14
Harden, B B and T E Baker	2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 sec 18	" "	2.53
Harman, N G	lot	" "	11
" Eliza C	5 sec 23 & 11 sec 24	" "	2.78
Howard, R P	h and 11 sec 27	" "	62
Jones, H C	h and 5 sec 15	" "	6.30
Johnson, J C	6 sec 22 & 6 sec 27	" "	26

Johnson, G M	13 sec 14	W Graham	50
Kitts, G K	h and lot	" "	2.53
Lucas, Carrie L	2 block 3	" "	63
" J K	lot	Highland ave	75
Lane, A M	h and 2 lots	Gillespie map	7.73
Linkous, M R	74 acres	Residence	15.12
" "	8 "	E Graham	5.04
" 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 & part 3, 4 & 2	" "	" "	2.53
Lindsey, W A	h and lot	E Graham	7.57
Morris, Daisy D	4 sec 6	" "	10.08
Porter, Ritter C	4 sec 4	Tazewell ave K at	54
Pattin, J W	6 and 7 sec 3	" "	63
Ray, Edw	h and lot	Highland ave	5.04
Suthers, I P	h and lot	" "	38
Stafford, J W est	h and lot	" "	6.94
" "	h and lot	" "	5.04
" "	h and lot	" "	99
Smith, Emma F	7, 8 & 9 sec 11	" "	10.08
" H C	lot	Highland ave	1.88
" CT of 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 part of 4	2 acres	E Graham	1.90
Shell, John	1 acre	" "	25
Tinsley, Charles	8 and 9 sec 9	" "	25
Williams, Haskins	lot sec 5	" "	12.60
Witten, Nannie F	9 sec 36	" "	25
Walker, J asph	2 sec 26 and	" "	63
Woolwine, C C & J D H	lot	" "	4.42
Woodyard, J E	lot	" "	2.51

## COLORED.

Brown, G W	10 & 11 sec 15 & 2 houses	E Graham	2.51
Cannon, R H	lots 6 and 7	" "	4.65
Dickerson, Ben	73 acres	Stony Ridge	3.33
Dixon, Sid	172 sec 8	Boisevain	85
Free, Susan J	64 acres	near Graham	2.02
Higginbotham, M L	2 acres	Tiptop	68
Harman, Ephraim	14 acres	Mud Fork	85
Hollins, J R	5 lots	Graham	85
Johnson, Samuel	lot	Boisevain	85
McChen, Belle	38.5 acres	south Valley ridge	85
Richards, George	h and lot	Graham	1.66
Shill, Delphia	6 acres	W Valley	39
Saunders, Ardella	lots 3 and 10	Boisevain	33
Trigg, Alice	10 acres	Tiptop	69

## POCAHONTAS LOTS—COLORED.

Barkesdale, Samuel	part No 3	E Rolf st	84
Clark, Margaret	h and lot	Center st	1.17
Howard, R P	h and lot	Church at	1.69
Morgan, John T	h and lot	E Moore st	1.25
Trigg, Elizabeth and Chas	lot	" "	1.25

## GRAHAM LOTS—COLORED.

Cole, W B	lot 2	" "	38
Calhoun, A L	h and lot	near railroad	8.82
Free, Susan and Wayne	2 sec 28	" "	25

## MAIDEN SPRING DISTRICT.

Asbury, J Q	54 acres	Beech Fork	1.81
Brown, A T	35 "	Malney land	9.23
Call, Sarah	11 "	Kent's ridge	1.86
Hall, Rachel	624 "	" "	5.15
Crockett, Lizzie	h and lot	Knob	1.66
Earnest, J W and wife	tract	Poor Valley	2.33
Edmonds, Laura W	35 acres	" "	16
Fields, Sallie	1 "	Cedar Bluff	2.33
Griffiths, J Albert	624 acres	Keot's ridge	5.15
Harris, C	8 "	Thompson Valley	29
Hunt, John W	8 "	Mud Fork	47
Harmann, Fannie	20.5 "	Laurel	1.00
Hurt, L H est	# of 140 "	Sinkhole creek	7.74
" "	# of 2 lots	near J. F. Prater's	15
" "	# of res Sp add # of 12 acc 5	" "	2.65
Hurt, Lewis R and als	32.4 acres	Sinkhole branch	1.15
" "	lots 4 and 5	Richlands	1.66
Hurt, A W	3.76 acres	Coal creek	1.15
Houchins, Ira	lot	Bir Creek	2.65
Long, J E	40 acres	N S Valley Knobs	5.28
LeComte, Augustus est	24 "	Indian	15
McGuire, Dr Joe A	134 "	Laurel	2.81
Maynard, B W	h and lot and 3 acres	Coal creek	4.48
Payne, Ballard	3 acres	Indian	1.84
Pruett, W Joseph	31 "	Pounding Mill	1.99
Ratliff, Wm H	48 "	Indian creek	2.14
Ringstaff, W	h and lot	Pounding Mill	1.05
Robinett, C L	17 acres	" "	82
Robinson, J W lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Sp add	Richlands	1.95
Sparks, James M	2 acres	Baptist Valley	37
" J H	57 "	Lick branch	3.33
" Vina	1 "	Clinch river	2.84
Vanhoozier, Edw	int in 76 acres	Little Valley	62
Wilson, Esther	1 "	Richlands	15
			15